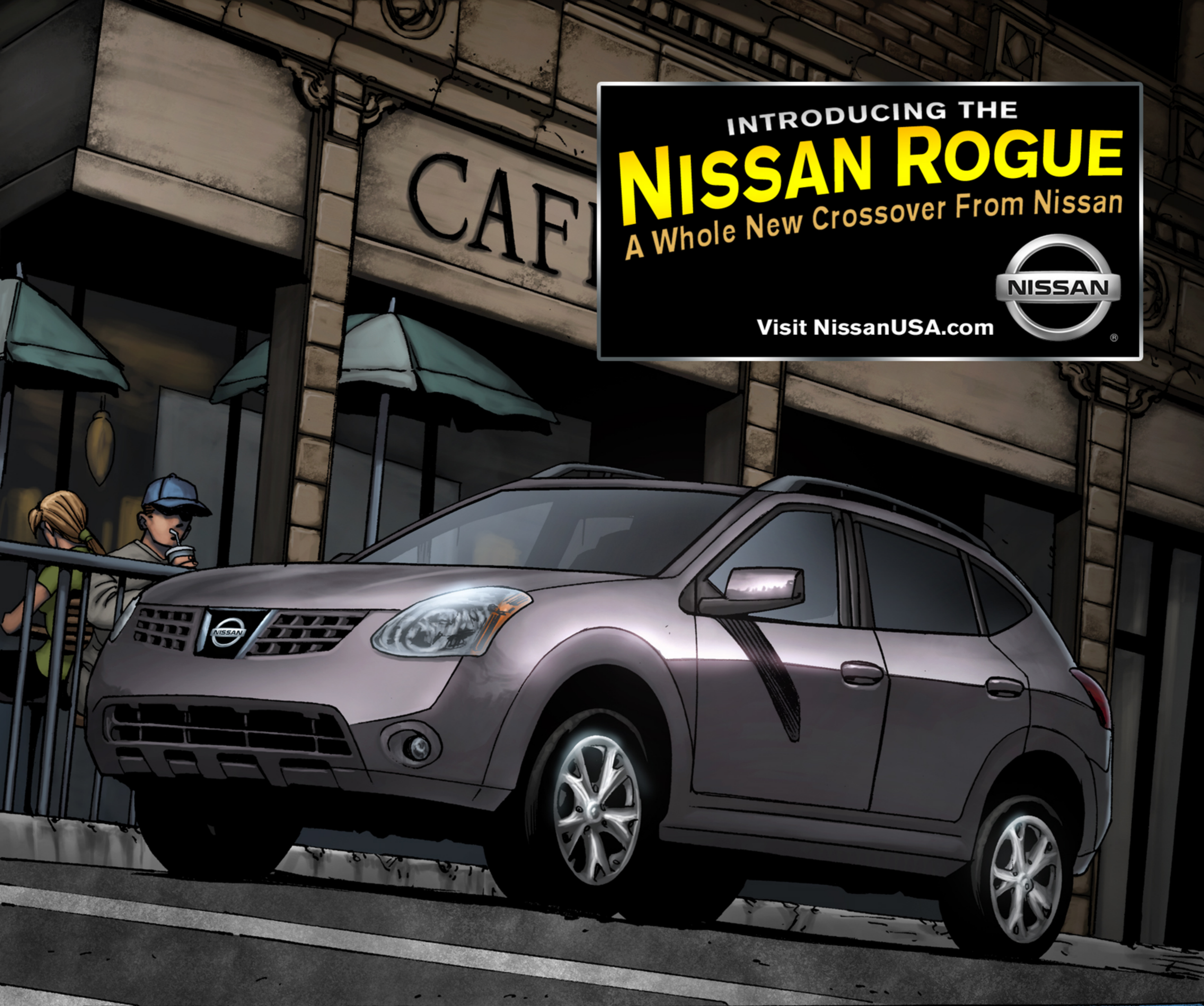


INTRODUCING THE
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HEROES

CHAPTER 59

Man on Fire

In the aftermath of the events at Kirby Plaza, D.L. Hawkins renewed his bonds with his wife Niki and their son, Micah. Making a major change in his life, D.L. takes a bold new step in becoming a hero once more...

**FIRE STATION #5,
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA.**

CAPTAIN BURKE HAD IT OUT
FOR ME FROM DAY ONE OF
FIREFIGHTER TRAINING.

TRAINEE
CLASS OF 2000

HAWKINS --
YOU'RE SAVING
LIVES WITH
THAT WATER, NOT
FILLING A DAMN
POOL -- MOVE
FASTER!

I'M BEATIN'
EVERYBODY!

IN THE CLASSROOM.
DURING DRILLS. MAN,
HE NEVER LET UP.

MAN ON FIRE

TIMM KEPPLER MICHAEL GAYDOS

Story

Art

CHRIS SOTOMAYOR COMICRAFT Nanci QUESADA

Colors

Lettering

Editor

**TWO MONTHS
LATER...**

I TRIED TO SET THINGS RIGHT.

I GOT A
FAMILY TOO -- JUST
WANNA DO RIGHT
BY THEM.

ALL DUE
RESPECT SIR,
YOU DON'T
KNOW A *THING*
ABOUT ME.

I KNOW
THE KIND OF FAMILY
MAN *YOU* ARE.

I KNOW YOU
AREN'T GONNA BE
A *FIREFIGHTER*.

TEST DAY...

STOP! HAND YOUR PAPERS
TO LIEUTENANT PALMER,
GET SUITED UP -- TIME FOR
THE *REAL* TEST!

IT WAS A MOCK FIRE.
THE TEST: SAVE
THE DUMMY DOLLS
INSIDE, PUT OUT THE
FIRE, GET OUT SAFE.

WE WORK IN TEAMS.
YOU HAVE TEN MINUTES.
SUCCESS AND YOU *PASS*
-- ANYTHING LESS AND
YOU *FAIL*. GOT THAT?
HAWKINS?

I GOT STUCK WITH
BURKE. LUCKY ME.

**LIGHT
IT UP!**

REMEMBER:
VENTILATE! PROTECT
EXPOSURE! KEEP AN
EYE ON EACH
OTHER!

WE SHOULDA NOTICED THE
FIRE WAS TOO HOT. TOO
BIG. BUT **ADRENALINE**
GOT IN THE WAY.

KRAK

SECURE THE
BEDROOM --
MEET IN THE
KITCHEN!

COPY
THAT!

KAPOW

HAWKINS!

IT'S
TOO HOT --
I CAN'T
PASS!

PALMER -- THE **GAS LINE** --
IT'S SET TOO **HIGH!** THE
SHUT-OFF VALVE'S IN THE
BASEMENT! SOUTHEAST
CORNER!

CAN'T GET IN,
CAPTAIN -- IT'S
COLLAPSED!

GET
OUTTA HERE,
HAWKINS!

KRKSSH

I'M NOT
LEAVIN'
YOU!

GOT NO MORE
THAN **30 SECONDS**
'FORE EVERYTHING
FALLS!

HAWKINS!
THERE'S NO
TIME!

I HAD TO SAVE EVERYONE.
AND THE FASTEST WAY
TO THE BASEMENT WAS
STRAIGHT DOWN.

CAPTAIN --
EVERYBODY'S
TRAPPED?!



HAWKINS?!

HELP!

I CAN'T
GET OUT!

WE'RE
TRAPPED!

UNHHH...

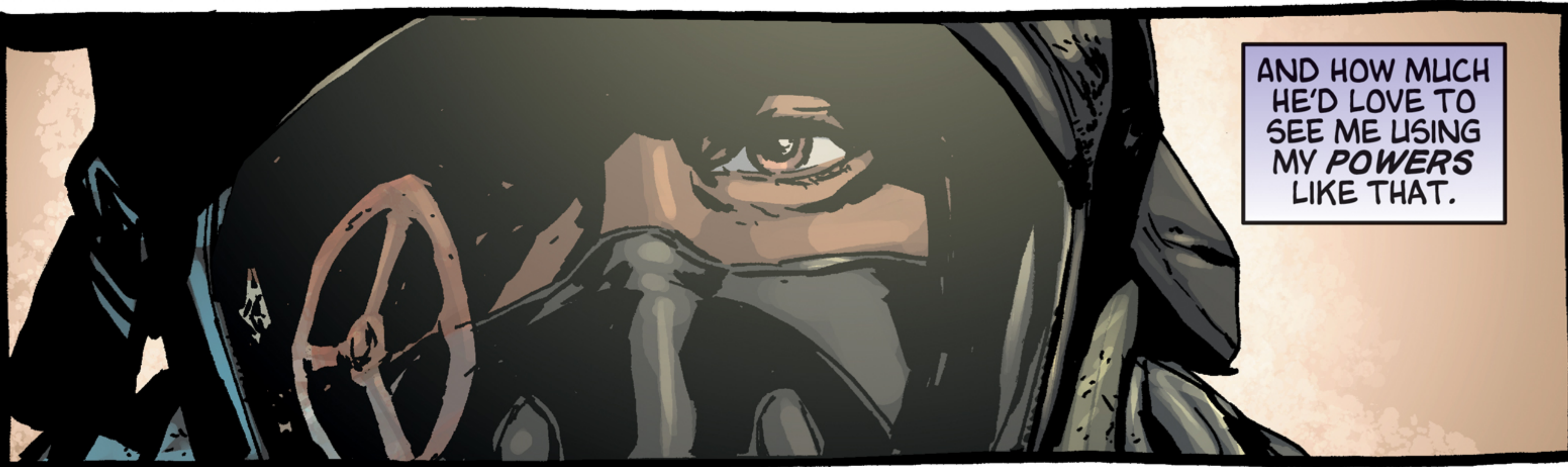




I DON'T EVEN *REMEMBER*
RUNNIN' THROUGH THE
BASEMENT.



I WAS THINKIN'
ABOUT *MICAH*.



AND HOW MUCH
HE'D LOVE TO
SEE ME USING
MY *POWERS*
LIKE THAT.



HMMPH!

SSFFPHHMM
MM



I DON'T KNOW, HE *DISAPPEARED*. I CLIMBED DOWN TO THE FIRST FLOOR BUT I COULDN'T *FIND* HIM.

THERE HE *IS*!



HOW IN THE *HELL*?



YOU SAVED OUR LIVES.

WE THOUGHT WE *LOST* YOU, HAWKINS.

TAKES MORE THAN *THAT*.



I DON'T... HOW DID YOU...

YOU *OKAY*, CAPTAIN?

YEAH... THANKS.

GO HOME AND TELL THAT FAMILY OF YOURS YOU WERE A *HERO* TODAY. WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT.

YES, SIR.

I COULDN'T WAIT TO GET HOME AND TELL MICAH THE *WHOLE* STORY.

The End